

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4929

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: THGA, ETRD, EAID, MILI, PFOR, TU, US

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED CASE SURFACES AGAIN

REF: ANKARA 6924

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING DELIVERY OF SECOND PACKAGE OF DOCUMENTS RELATED TO CASE, FLURRY OF LOCAL PRESS COMMENTARY ON LOCKHEED OCCURRED DURING PAST WEEK. FOR MOST PART STORIES WERE A STRAINED AND UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO CREATE A SCANDAL. MAIN POINT OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO EMERGE WAS REPORTED INTENTION OF BOTH TURKISH MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND OF CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY TO TRAVEL TO US IF "LIST OF NAMES" IS NOT INCLUDED IN MATERIAL FURNISHED BY US TO DATE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 1 MINISTER OF JUSTICE ISMAIL MUFTUOGLU (NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY) HAD STATED THAT A PACKAGE OF DOCUMENTS RELATED TO CASE WAS IN POSSESSION OF ANKARA PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, BUT THAT MATERIAL FAILED TO IDENTIFY SPECIFICALLY ANY INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED. ON SEPTEMBER 14, AFTER A SECOND PACKAGE WAS DELIVERED, MINISTER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT APPROPRIATE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE AFTER EXAMINATION OF NEW MATERIAL

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BUT THAT IF IT DID NOT INCLUDE LIST OF NAMES HE INTENDED

TO GO TO THE US "TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION". THIS WAS ECHOED BY CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE LOCKHEED BRIBERY, YILMAZ ALPASLAN (REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY DEPUTY FROM EDIRNE), WHO STATED ON SAME DAY THAT "IF NOTHING CAME OUT OF SECOND PACKAGE" HE, ALONG WITH SELECTED MEMBERS OF HIS COMMISSION, WOULD ALSO GO TO US.

3. SIMULTANEOUSLY, MODERATE LEFT NEWSPAPER CUMHURIYET, A FREQUENT CRITIC OF GOVERNMENT, CARRIED FOUR-PART SERIES IN WHICH PHOTOCOPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE AMONG LOCKHEED OFFICIALS, ALTAY COMPANY (LOCKHEED'S TURKISH REP) AND AERITALIA ARE FEATURED. THIS MATERIAL DOES NOT APPEAR TO US TO BE ANYTHING MORE THAN NORMAL BUSINESS COMMUNICATION, ALTHOUGH IT CONTAINS CODE NAMES AND OCCASIONAL DOUBLE-TALK E(G. "THE SNAKE IS ALIVE AND WELL", AND "DISCUSSIONS WITH NUB") THAT ADD CONSPIRATORIAL FLAVOR. STORIES ALSO SELECT AND EMPHASIZE, AMONG OTHER AMBIGUOUS INFERENCES, ALTAY COMPANY'S ASSESSMENT AT ONE TIME OF A NEWLY APPOINTED TURKISH AF LOGISTICS CHIEF AS "NOT AS FLEXIBLE AS HIS PREDECESSOR" AND POINTEDLY MENTIONS GIFTS OF MODEL AIRPLANES AND POCKET CALCULATORS TO UNNAMED TURKISH GENERALS "ON THEIR REQUEST".

4. COMMENT. MAIN LOSER TO DATE APPEARS TO BE LOCAL LOCKHEED AGENT, ALTAY COMPANY, WHICH IS REPORTED TO HAVE LOST ALL ACCESS TO TURKISH DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT, MAIN SOURCE OF ITS BUSINESS, AND IS RUMORED TO BE ON VERGE OF BREAKUP. DESPITE RELATIVELY INNOCUOUS NATURE OF PUBLICITY SO FAR CASE STILL HAS TROUBLE-MAKING POTENTIAL FOR US INTERESTS AND COULD CONCEIVABLY BECOME ISSUE IN BUILDUP TO 1977 TURKISH GENERAL ELECTIONS.
FRANCIS

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